

Please delete the heading at page 2, line 15, which reads "PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION".

Please add the following heading and eight paragraphs at page 3, line 2, immediately preceding the heading "MEANS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEMS":

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows a restriction site map of BS-MG6.

Fig. 2 shows the structure of a homologous recombination vector.

Fig. 3 shows the results of a PCR analysis using primers specific to the wild-type  $\alpha$ -TTP gene and a mutated  $\alpha$ -TTP gene, respectively.

Fig. 4-1 shows the electrophoresis results of mouse genomic DNA fragments.

Fig. 4-2 shows the results of Southern hybridization using a probe having a sequence around Exon 1.

Fig. 5-1 shows the results of Northern hybridization using mouse  $\alpha$ -TTP cDNA as a probe.

Fig. 5-2 shows the intensity of signals from Northern hybridization.

Fig. 6 shows the results of Western blotting using an anti-rat  $\alpha$ -TTP polyclonal antibody.

Fig. 7 shows a time course of blood tocopherol levels in mice.--

Please replace the heading at page 3, line 3, which reads "MEANS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEMS", with the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please replace the heading at page 4, line 3, which reads "DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION", with the following heading:

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--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

Please delete the Brief Description of the Drawings section at page 22, which begins with the heading "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS" and includes descriptions of Figures 1-7.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 14-26 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new claims 27-34, as follows:

--27. (New) A transgenic mouse comprising a knockout allele of the genomic  $\alpha$ -TTP gene, wherein expression of  $\alpha$ -TTP from the knockout allele is inhibited such that transgenic mice homozygous for the knockout allele exhibit a vitamin E deficiency phenotype.

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28. (New) A transgenic mouse homozygous for a knockout allele of the genomic  $\alpha$ -TTP gene, wherein expression of  $\alpha$ -TTP from the knockout allele is inhibited, and wherein the transgenic mouse exhibits a vitamin E deficiency phenotype.

29. (New) The transgenic mouse according to claim 27, wherein the vitamin E deficiency phenotype comprises a failure of pregnant females to maintain pregnancy as assayed by the fetal resorption-gestation test.

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